

Ridge Live Steamers

March 2012

CALENDAR

Sebring Systems	Friday – Sunday	March 9 – 10, 2012
RLS Spring Meet	Friday-Sunday	March 23-25, 2012
And Board of Directors Meeting, if necessary, Saturday		March 24, 2012
Regular Work Day	Saturday	March 31, 2012
Regular Work Day	Saturday	April 7, 2012
Regular Work Day	Saturday	April 14, 2012

Now, It's Our Turn. The Winter Meet by any standard can be called a success. The Winter Meet is a “working meet” for us. The Spring Meet is our opportunity to run, and talk, and run and There will be a Pot Luck dinner Saturday night in the pavilion at 6:00 pm. The Spring Meet will give us a better chance to run bi-directionally. Night running will depend on the weather and the number of trains wanting to run.

Winter Meet. The weather was perfect and the meet got off to a fast start, on Tuesday campers started arriving, Wednesday was a very busy run day and the pace continued right on through Saturday. John Collins, Harvey Ulch, Joe Scales, Dana Bliss, along with some others I'm sure, saw to it that everyone got unloaded quickly. Rich Dobler handled the Yard Master's duties again this year. The only complaint I heard from him was that someone kept stealing his chair in the shadow of the Yard Master's Tower. The Friday Pot Luck dinner fed between 110 and 125 people. With people wandering about it was hard to get a solid count. Several ladies saw to the set-up, Sue Bissett, Gil Forte, Carol Pfister, Katie Abbott, Rose Maxwell and Rene Barcy. The Saturday banquet seated 147 people with a Pork and Chicken BBQ dinner from Sonny's. Once again, no one left hungry and the leftovers provided lunch at the pavilion on Monday and Wednesday. Special thanks go to members who helped with the setup of the Civic Center and serving of the drinks and desert. Daily registration and set-up was handled by Sue Bissett, Gwen Leslie, Carol Pfister, Loraine Bezdek, Anice McElroy and Nancy Dobler along with answering the usual questions presented at the Registration Desk. And, a great big “Thank You” to everyone manning the Fire Watch at Bowen Branch gazebo. At the banquet Foster Bond gave his annual engine report. It included each type of engine propane fired, coal fired, gas powered, battery powered as well as other types of motive power. Bottom line was: 20 propane fired; 19 coal fired; 30 gas fired; 33 electric; and 33 others. Total engine count 135, 25 caboose, 206 freight and passenger cars. During the January/February time frame we welcomed 14 new members.

Thank You for patronizing all the vendors at the Winter Meet. Having all the vendors visit our meet helps make for a really special weekend. It also gives you the opportunity to meet them and see and handle the products before you make that important purchase. Your business insures that they will want to come back next year.

And the Winner Is The Grand Prize door prize was a two bay hopper purchased from Tom Bee by the Florida Live Steamers complete with couplers and trucks. Tom Bee added ribs to the car as his donation. Kevin Doe won the hopper car and proceeded to donate to the Ridge Live Steamers provided it would be painted black and be decorated with Denver Rio Grande lettering which he will provide. Rich Dobler donated the sturrups, Jim Reid donated the powder coating. It should be a thing of beauty and a joy forever. Thank you everyone.

Notes from the Emporium and Switch Yard. Thank you for your support of the Emporium and the Switch Yard Sale. Both operations were very successful this year thanks to those of you who made purchases and those who supplied sale items for the yard sale. Now that we have some experience, the Switch Yard Sale will now settle into a regular schedule of operating for one event a year, at the Winter Meet only. That is when we have the most potential customers and sellers on the property. So, start saving your surplus railroad and hobby related items for sale in February 2013.

Once upon a time there was a small railroad that ran on a ridge in the middle of Florida. The Lords of the railroad were planning a gathering of several locomotives and a large number of pieces of rolling stock. The Lords were also told to be ready to receive and spot 35 passenger coaches to house crew members.

The railroad had enough sidings with water and electrical connections to spot 32 coaches. The yard crew looked at some short and little used sidings that could be used if temporary water lines and electric wire were laid on the ground. The short sidings had enough room to spot 5 coaches, bring the total room to 37 coaches.

The passenger coaches began arriving two days before the planned gathering. The sidings were filling up fast. The 2 extra long coaches that arrived were spotted on separate short sidings.

The coaches continued to arrive and fill up the sidings. The railroad received a few unscheduled coaches. Where to put them? No empty sidings to use. The yard crew found old weed choked sidings to use. The coaches spotted on these sidings had to depend on battery power and water stored on board. The crew members in these coaches were happy to have a place to lay their heads at night.

When all of the coaches were spotted, the yard crew moved on to other duties.

The railroad had a total of 40 camping units. Five of the campers chose to dry camp and two campers decided not to bring their campers. The two spaces that were empty were quickly put to use. The first space had a truck parked in it. The second space went to the ladies for their activities.

Thank you to all of the campers for their cooperation. Thank you to Harvey Ulch and Rollin Patrick for their help. I want to thank my wife, Gail, for her help in directing Bill Bryan to his camping spot.

Dana Bliss

Letter from the President

We had terrific weather and a great meet the last weekend in February. A complete report of the meet with pictures will appear in the next issue of Trainline. The Gauge 1 track was kept busy with several of our Florida Gauge One Steamers from Florida, both on Friday and Saturday. The Ridge Yacht Club saw several steam boats. Dave Conroy brought two steam powered tugs on Saturday. We were sheltered from the sun thanks to a portable Garage donated by Jim Reid. Most days I ran the Opal a fast steam launch, and the Stern Paddle Wheel Talisman. On the windy days I had to run the Talisman without the lid. Both boats ran well. The pond will be in operation

for the Spring Meet the fourth weekend in March.

Submitted by Harold Dunsford



“Mr. Clean” or perhaps you know him as Jim Burby. His latest success is cleaning out the Pump House which long has been the repository for “stuff.” Jim says Rich Dobler deserves the credit, I think he’s being a bit modest. The Chlorine Room was cleaned out and the two pot belly stoves moved from the garage to this space.



With the stoves removed the buckets of coal were stacked along the wall and the scraps of steel were removed. The result is a usable garage for the lawn mowing equipment which is standing by for the summer grass cutting season.

Name Badges. Please wear your name badges when at the track, especially during run days, so that we may all learn the names of members we don’t know, and new members may get to know us. Additional, or new, badges may be purchased for \$6.00.

Pavilion Smoking Ban. In response to several complaints from the membership, a motion was made at the Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, February 26th to ban smoking at all times in the pavilion. Suggestions are being evaluated for a nearby area where seating can be provided for a smoking area. The pavilion is the only place on our 15+ acres where there is now NO SMOKING. However, there is nothing to prevent the owners of private car barns to set their own policy for their individual buildings.

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General Membership Meetings will be held the fourth Saturday of each month, unless otherwise noted. They will be held at the pavilion after lunch. This is to satisfy the Requirements of Article 1, Section 4 of the Ridge Live Steamers By-Laws.

Board of Director Meetings will be held on run days in January, April, July and October. This is to satisfy the Requirements of Article II, Section 3, Paragraph (1) of the Ridge Live Steamers By-Laws. By direction of the President additional Board of Director meetings will be held right after lunch on run days during the intervening months, if necessary.

Dues. At this time nine members have still not paid their dues. Time is running out, according to the By-Laws if dues are not paid by March 1st the member is to be dropped. Former members can be reinstated by the payment of the current years dues. We all hope that they benefit from RLS membership and will pay their dues soon.

Is it a Tree House, a Club House, a Fort? Well as the building took shape it appears that it may be a Yard Master's tower. "It" had long been long discussed and finally Harvey Ulch came up with a sketch. It also seems he had some window sashes and a door from an old passenger car that he didn't have a home for. Bill Hays took the sketch, straightened out some lines, added some dimensions, and made the windows and door fit. Then Harvey, Rich Dobler, Dana Bliss, John Bortz went and got some lumber, Jim Burby, Rich Kralik, Harold Dunsford and Rollin Patrick pitched in to put it all together, and this is what they got.

